

25p

THE OFFICIAL PROGRAMME OF WIGAN ATHLETIC

SPRINGFIELD SCENE



Saturday, 18th April, 1981 — Kick-off 3.00 p.m.

FOOTBALL LEAGUE DIVISION FOUR

WIGAN ATHLETIC -v- STOCKPORT COUNTY

Today's match is sponsored by Gordon Ford

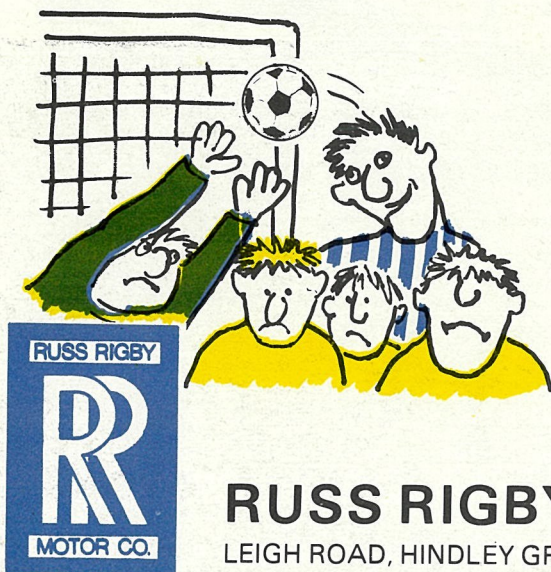
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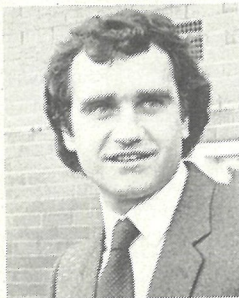
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MY POINT OF VIEW

WELCOME to our neighbours Stockport County, and a special welcome to Les Bradd, against whom I have played on a number of occasions in the past, when I was with Forest and Les was with

Notts. County. We have always had a tough battle and I expect this afternoon to be no different.

It saddens me to hear, this week, of the dismissal from Sunderland of Ken Knighton, and Frank Clark. Frank and I, of course, played together at Forest for three years and had many good times together. I felt that, out of the entire professional staff at the City Ground, Frank had the right credentials to become a successful manager, and I hope he bounces back from this to prove me right and become a success with another club. I wish him well in the future, but it proves just what a precarious job football management is, and he and Ken Knighton gained promotion for Sunderland less than 12 months ago

and were probably considered heroes at that time.
Bradford City

I cannot speak too highly of the players' commitment and one hundred per cent effort in our match against Bradford City, last Saturday. I missed the game, having aggravated an ankle injury during training on the previous Wednesday, but, sitting on the sidelines, I could not have been more proud of the lads for the way in which they fought back, after going behind on two occasions. It was pleasing to see us scoring goals, but, as in our match against Tranmere Rovers, we chose the same game in which to concede goals. However, if we can score more than we concede each week, I think I would settle for that.

Enjoy the game.

Larry Lloyd.

Front page photo — Micky Quinn fires home the equalising goal against Bradford City.
(Photograph by courtesy of David Cookson.)

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GREAT NAMES FROM THE PAST

BY HAROLD ASHURST

IN OUR "Great Names From the Past" series, goalkeepers have hardly been featured at all, although it must be pointed out straight away that there have been many excellent players "between the sticks" at Springfield Park.

Many names spring to mind, such as Bert Lomas, of the famous Ted Goodier side, Harry Sharratt, and David Gaskell, but one of the favourites was a 'keeper of more recent times - Dennis Reeves.

Dennis was signed from Wrexham in the late 1960's and quickly established himself in the first team. He was a firm favourite with the Latics fans, who admired his solid, dependable performances. Never spectacular, Dennis, a painter and decorator by trade, was perhaps one of the most efficient 'keepers to wear Wigan Athletic colours. He had appeared frequently in the Wrexham first team before joining Wigan Athletic, and earlier in his career had played at Sealand Road for Chester.

After signing for Latics, Dennis Reeves played in a number of successful teams and gave many memorable performances, not least against Manchester City in 1971 when he pulled off some tremendous saves before, ironically, his boot split while taking a goal-kick and the ball fell to a City player who set up the winning goal for Colin Bell.

Another performance Latics fans will remember from Dennis Reeves came in the F.A. Challenge Trophy Semi-Final replay against Stafford Rangers, at Boundary Park, Oldham in 1973. His performance helped Latics win 1-0 and Dennis played at Wembley against Scarborough in what must have been one of the highlights of his career.

In the middle seventies Dennis decided to pack in football and concentrate on his decorating business in Chester. He will long be remembered by Wigan fans and on the occasions he comes along to Springfield Park these days, there are always many fans eager to shake his hand and pass the time of day.

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by Fred Eyre

OUR reserve fixture last week, at home to Chester, gave four players a good opportunity to show everybody that the players possess the attitude expected of professional footballers. After the first team's home defeat by A.F.C. Bournemouth on the Saturday, Tony Quinn, George Urquhart, Bill Urquhart and Frank Corrigan were relegated to the reserve team, as

manager Larry Lloyd showed his displeasure with their performances. The players in question responded in the correct manner, by giving maximum effort and application for the reserve team on the following Monday night.

Skipper for the night, George Urquhart, drove the team on from midfield and set a fine example. Tony Quinn scored the first goal after a fine run by Frank Corrigan, while a superb overhead kick by Billy Urquhart won us the game, and he generally led his line well. Big Jim Oliver had a fine game in an unusual defensive role and was unbeatable in the air.

Our last fixture of the current season is away at Gresty Road, Crewe, where we have never been beaten, and we are obviously hoping to keep this run going.

For the record, the team against Chester was: 1. John Brown 2. Lawrence Tierney 3. Brian Kettle 4. George Urquhart 5. David Welsby 6. Jim Oliver 7. David Glenn 8. Mark Wignall 9. Billy Urquhart 10. Tony Quinn 11. Frank Corrigan 12. David McMullan.

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COMMERCIAL CHATTER



THE past week has been quite significant as far as the operation of the commercial activities of the Wigan Athletic Football Club is concerned. Not only have I been involved in a series of meetings of great local importance, but I have also attended a Football League Seminar at Solihull, near Birmingham, to explore, along with directors and commercial managers of other Football League clubs, current thinking on sponsorship, lotteries and related activities. As ever, frank exchanges of opinion between mutually interested parties were enlightening and most valuable in helping to formulate our plans for the close season and the early weeks of the 1981/1982 season.

A recent lengthy conversation with our Chairman, Mr. Pye, brought it home to me just how much Football Club will need to rely on the Commercial Department in the immediate future. Some of the observations were a little painful to accept, but were in no way out of place or inappropriate when one is aware of the increasing financial pressures which are being brought to bear on the directors and all grades of management within the club. To do one's best is no longer enough, since the money needed to implement the most immediate of plans for the future is going to be far greater in quantity than might have been anticipated only a few short weeks ago. It remains, therefore, for my department to re-double its efforts, since, without a marked increase in productivity, life is going to be very, very hard indeed. I trust that we can rely on your support through the long summer months that lie ahead, because, without your support, there is no way in which we

can attain the high standards demanded.

It emerged, from the meeting at Solihull, that Wigan Athletic is not alone in experiencing difficult times, and, if it is any consolation, many of our colleagues at Football League level also face a period of trial in the close season, when economies on the one hand, and a major push for sales on the other, are likely to be the twin policies on which so many will rely in the fight for survival.

Our sponsors today, Gordon Ford, of Wallgate, Wigan, Telephone No. Wigan 41393, will be known to most of you as they are our local Ford Main Dealers and are well established advertisers at Springfield Park. Although part of a large group of Ford dealers, having dealerships at Stockport, Matlock and Colwyn Bay, Gordon Ford can be relied upon to give that close personal service which Northerners prefer. Whether buying spares or accessories, requiring minor adjustments or major overhauls, Gordon Ford are the experts. A varied stock of quality used cars and commercials, and, of course, the full range of new Ford cars, light vans and heavy commercial vehicles are available for early delivery.

Today's match ball has again been donated by our old friend and loyal supporter, Tom Bleasdale, who provides a business and income tax service from his office at 70, Springfield Road, Wigan. Telephone No. 48503.

Please support these good people who continue to show great interest in the Wigan Athletic Football Club.

Enjoy today's game.
Jack Sudworth, Commercial Manager.



Letterbox

Springfield Park, Wigan. 14th April, 1981.

12, Belmont Ave., Billinge Higher End, Nr. Wigan WN5 7BZ. 7th April, 1981.

Dear Sir,

I feel I have to respond to your plea for more letters in your column in last week's programme Latics v. A.F.C. Bournemouth, I hope other supporters are doing the same. It's a crying shame that fans aren't putting their viewpoints into writing; they seem to have enough to say on the terraces.

I would also like to write because whenever football is mentioned, lady addicts seem to be in the lost minority. I've hardly ever seen letters from women supporters. Speaking as a married female football fanatic with two young sons, I'd like to say that we are alive and kicking. I'm sure that I share the sentiments of every other Latics lady supporters when I say that we're behind our team all the way, even when things aren't going right for them, which is more than can be said for a percentage of would-be Latics fans who stop going to matches because their team aren't bionic!! I don't call them supporters. I try to see every home game and if I could get babysitters I'd be at every away match too. Needless to say, when Latics are away, my Saturday afternoon is left free to listen to the radio for the score to come in and our match reports. So you see, even I can sleep, eat and talk Latics and I do. What a wonderful supporter Simon Fullelove is, to have travelled 2,376 miles at the end of the season to watch Wigan Athletic's games must take some beating in the loyalty stakes. If we could pull in 6,000 plus spectators at every home match of the makings of Mr. Fullelove, then I think we'd coast into the Third Division at the end of next season, especially with Larry Lloyd behind us. This prompts me to say, "Good luck in your new role as manager, Larry". I sincerely hope you will be a successful manager of a successful team.

Well, I think all that remains for me to say now is "All the best for the future, Latics". We know the club has the potential to go places; I hope we can do it in style.

Good luck,

Yours loyally,

Mrs. Joan Nevin, Phil, Shaun and Steven.

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PHOTOFILE

CRIME AND PUNISHMENT

Bradford City goalkeeper Neil Ramsbottom brings down Peter Houghton, and Jeff Wright exacts the full penalty from the spot kick.

Photographs by courtesy of David Cookson.



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BELOW:

Micky Quinn in action against A.F.C.
Bournemouth.

Photograph by courtesy of Wigan Observer.



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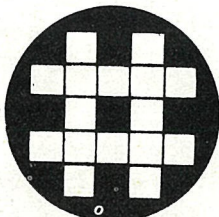
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PASTIME-FUNTIME

ON THE BALL No. 25

Every answer has five letters and the first one fits into the top line, but you have to decide where the rest must go.



Former Wales boss; One of Newport's colours; --- Magath (West Germany); Kit.



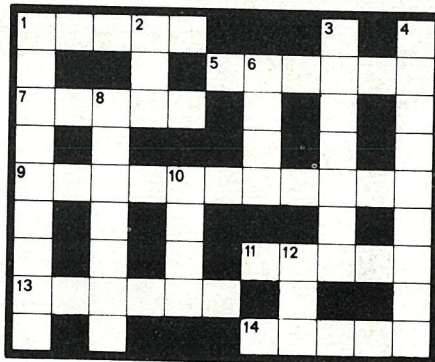
CLUB CLUE No. 25

Solve this cryptic clue to identify a soccer side.

Where the trees feel the warmth.

MIXED DOUBLES No. 25

Rearrange the letters in each of the words **WASH** and **ELBOWS** to find two ex-England men.



SOCCER NINETY-NINER

No. 25 (compiled by David Peck)
ACROSS

1. Finn --- (5)
5. Defender who joined Everton from Blackburn in 1979 (6)
7. Club of which Bobby Charlton became a director in 1980 (5)
9. Club with which Willie Watson, Alan Ball and George Kirby have each had two spells as manager (7,4)
11. Not in condition to play (5)
13. Full-back who made over 300 appearances for Leicester in the 1960s (6)
14. None of Aberdeen's spectators have to do it! (5)

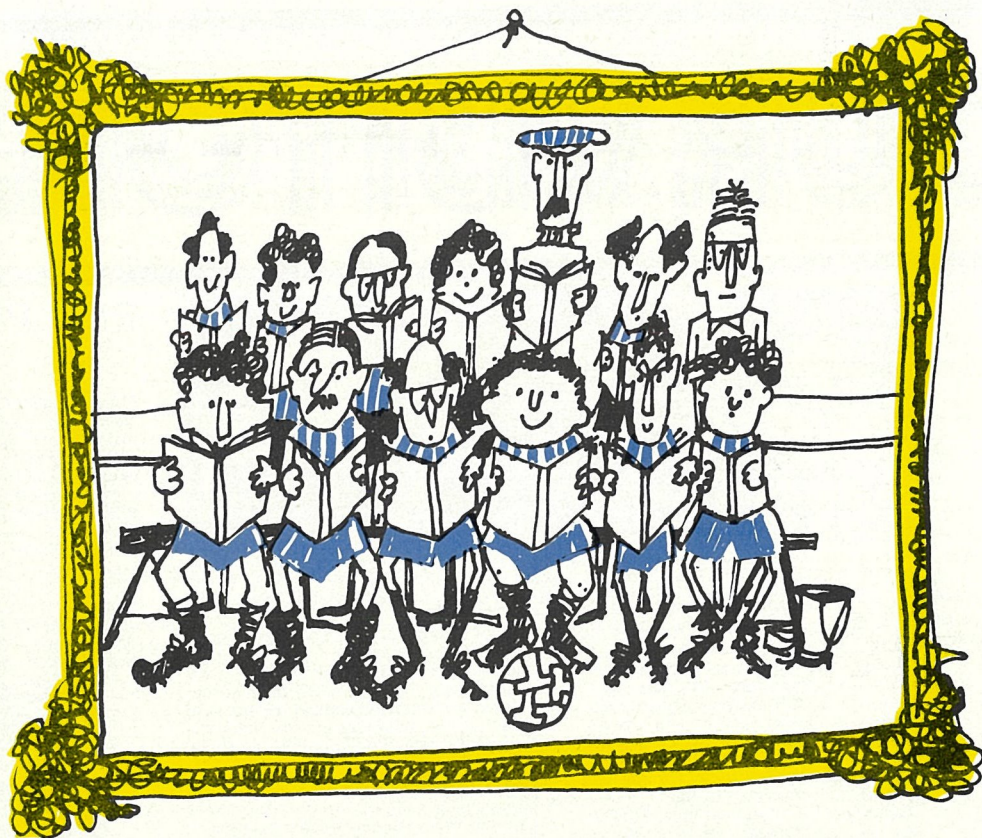
DOWN

1. Where WBA are based (9)
2. Alan Gowling succeeded Gordon Taylor as chairman of this organisation (1,1,1)
3. Match to settle a tournament's third and fourth placings (4-3)
4. "The Honest Men" (3,6)
6. --- McLeish (Aberdeen) (4)
8. One of the 'first name' players on Palace's books this season (along with Allen, Francis and Nicholas) (7)
10. Soccer's big bosses (1,1,1,1)
12. Score (3)

1980/81 series
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Answers on Page 22.





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OUR VISITORS



STOCKPORT COUNTY FOOTBALL CLUB — 1980/1981 (Left to right) **Back Row:** Les Bradd (Capt.), Martin Fowler, Steve Sherlock, Mike Rogan, David Lawson, Steve Uzelac, Tommy Sword, Andy Thorpe, Chris Galvin. **Front Row:** John Rutter, David Booth, Tony Coyle, Terry McCreery (Chief Executive/Secretary), Arthur Pownall (Director), Dragon Lukic (Director), Alan Kirk, (President/Chairman), Oshor Williams, Sean Moloney, Dave Sunley.

FOR our only fixture of the Easter Bank Holiday period, we are delighted to welcome the directors, management, staff and supporters of our near-neighbours Stockport County to Springfield Park. Over the years, encounters between our two clubs have always been highly competitive, and we have little doubt that today's game will again be a closely fought affair.

Although the previous five Football League encounters with our friends from Edgeley Park have all ended in our favour, "County" gained some consolation in defeating Wigan Athletic in the First Round of the Football League Cup in Season 1979/1980. Our visitors, like ourselves, can be somewhat unpredictable, often toppling a top-placed team, only to fall in the next game against less-fancied opposition. Indeed, both clubs have had an irritating season, failing to show the consistency of performance needed to present a challenge for promotion. While Wigan Athletic are now comfortably positioned in mid-table, Stockport County still have several struggles ahead, if the club is not to be faced with the daunting prospect of applying for re-election at this year's Football League A.G.M.

Whatever the outcome of today's game, we look forward to a continued rivalry in the years that lie ahead, and we wish our visitors well for the few games that remain in the current season. We are sure that the club possesses the character and will to overcome its temporary problems.

PREVIOUS LEAGUE RESULTS

Season 1978/1979

3rd Nov. 1978 St'port County 0 Wigan Ath. 1.
St'port County 0 Wigan Ath. 1.
H.T. Score 0-0 Att. 8,357
Scorers: Stockport County —
Wigan Ath. Hinnigan.

17th Mar., 1979 Wigan Ath. 2 St'port County 0
H.T. Score 0-0 Att. 7,610
Scorers: Wigan Ath. Wright,
Smart.
St'port County —

Season 1979/1980

25th Aug., 1979 St'port County 1 Wigan Ath. 2
H.T. Score 0-2 Att. 4,000
Scorers: St'port County Lee
Wigan Ath. Houghton, Gore

29th Dec., 1979 Wigan Ath. 3 St'port County 1
H.T. Score 2-0 Att. 6,847
Scorers: Wigan Ath. Wright (2),
A. Quinn
St'port County Prudham

Season 1980/1981

27th Dec., 1980 St'port County 0 Wigan Ath. 1
H.T. Score 0-1 Att. 3,062
Scorers: St'port County —
Wigan Ath. A. Quinn

PEN PICTURES

DAVID LAWSON — Newcastle upon Tyne experienced goalkeeper. Formerly with Huddersfield Town and Player of the Year last season.

STEVE SHERLOCK — Birmingham. 5'9" 11st. had experience with Luton Town before joining Stockport County on a free transfer in the summer of 1979.

JOHN RUTTER — Warrington. 5'9" 11st. with Wolves, Bourne



City, John is the longer Edgeley Park, having joined in 1976.

ANDY THORPE — Stockport. 5'11" 12st. from school and is either a defensive or a primarily defensive capabilities.

STEVE UZELEC — Doncaster. 5'11" 12st. his career in the Football League home-town club Doncaster before moving on to serve



STOCKPORT COUNTY

**Ground: Edgeley Park,
Stockport.
Year Formed: 1883
Football League Record:**

1900 Elected to Division Two
1905-1921 Member of Second Division
1921-1922 Member of Third Division (North)
1922-1926 Member of Second Division
1926-1937 Member of Third Division (North)
1937-1938 Member of Second Division
1938-1959 Member of Third Division
1959-1967 Member of Fourth Division
1967-1970 Member of Third Division
1970-1981 Member of Fourth Division.



TURES

Goalkeeper — Born [illegible]. 6'0¾". A most [illegible] of excellent [illegible] Newcastle United, [illegible] Everton. County's [illegible] season.

Defender — Born [illegible]. 8lbs. Formerly [illegible] Manchester City and [illegible] joining Stockport [illegible] during the close

Defender — Born [illegible]. 8lbs. Previously [illegible] South and Exeter



st serving player at [illegible] joined County in

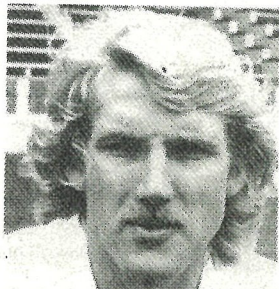
Defender — Born [illegible]. Joined County [illegible] equally at home in [illegible] or midfield role, [illegible] known for his

Defender — Born [illegible]. 13lbs. Steve began [illegible] all League with his [illegible] Manchester Rovers, [illegible] ve with Mansfield



Town and Preston North End, from which club he joined County in March, 1980.

TOMMY SWORD — **Defender** — Born Newcastle upon Tyne. 6'2" 14st. After a brief spell with Notts. Forest as an apprentice, Tommy returned home and



established a reputation as a goalscorer with Whitley Bay and Bishop Auckland before joining County. He reverted from a striking position to a central defensive role last season.

LES BRADD — **Midfield/Forward** — Born Buxton. 6'1" 13st. 6lbs. Les began his career with Rotherham United, but later made his name with Notts. County, scoring 125 League goals in 389 games



played for the Meadow Lane club. He played a major part of last season in a central defensive role, but can still lead the attack with purpose when given the chance to do so.

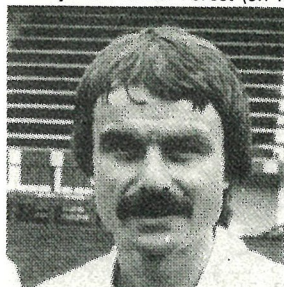
MARTIN FOWLER — **Midfield** — Born York. 5'11" 13st. This strong player has previously served with Huddersfield Town, Norwich City and Blackburn Rovers.

CHRIS GALVIN — **Midfield** — Born Huddersfield. 5'11" 12st. 4lbs. Signed as an apprentice by Leeds United straight from school. Later joined Hull City,



making well over 100 appearances for the Humberside club. He arrived at Edgeley Park in 1979 and has given good service to the club.

DAVE SUNLEY — **Forward** — Born Lingdale. 5'9" 11st. 6lbs. Signed for Sheffield Wednesday on leaving school, but later joined Notts. Forest (on loan),



Hull City and Lincoln City, before moving to Edgeley Park in March, 1980. Actually played in an F.A. Cup game for Sheffield Wednesday against Wigan Athletic in their non-league days.

DAVID BOOTH — **Forward** — Born Handforth. 6'0" 11st. 7lbs. Signed for County as an apprentice in February, 1979 after being recommended to the club. A young player, who shows a fine turn of pace and good ball control.

OSHOR WILLIAMS — **Forward** — Born Stockton on Tees. 5'9½" 11st. 7lbs. As a young player, Oshor was with Middlesbrough and Manchester United before returning to Gateshead as a part-time professional in the Northern Premier League. He returned to League status in 1977, joining Southampton, but, after loan periods with Reading and Exeter City, he joined County in 1979. Once eyed enviously by Ian McNeill in his Gateshead days.

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PLAYER

Larry Lloyd (Player/Manager)

Birthplace: Bristol

Date of Birth: 6th October 1948

Height: 6'2"

Weight: 14st.0lbs.

Previous Professional Clubs:

Bristol Rovers, Liverpool, Coventry City and Nottingham Forest.

Advice to Youngsters: If you think you have the necessary potential to become a professional footballer, get in touch with me at the ground soon.

The appointment of Larry Lloyd as Wigan Athletic's player/manager has caused an upsurge of interest among local fans, who feel that the experience and organisation which this seasoned professional is likely to bring to the club holds out great promise for the future. Hopes are high that next season will see Wigan Athletic gaining promotion to the Third Division of the Football League.



Photo by courtesy of The Wigan Reporter

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WRITTEN QUOTATIONS ON REQUEST

GOOD afternoon, on behalf of the committee and bar staff. May we express a warm welcome to our friends from Stockport who are visiting us on this Easter Saturday afternoon.

On Sunday last, we took part in the Northern Federation of Supporters' Clubs Seven-a-Side Football Competition, held at Huddersfield, where, after defeating Chesterfield 3-0, we lost to Liverpool 0-1 in a very closely fought game. Unfortunately, one of our players, Alan (Tashy) Ashcroft was seriously injured and was taken to Huddersfield Infirmary, from where he was later released with his broken limb encased in plaster. At the time of writing, Alan has been admitted to Wigan Infirmary and is awaiting a leg operation. I would like to convey to him the good wishes of our supporters, and we hope to see him back on his feet as soon as possible.

Due to the early requirements of these notes by our printer, we have not yet announced the winner of the "Player of the Year" contest, but, after counting the votes, I must report that the winner was a unanimous choice, winning by no less than 1,600 votes out of the 2,078 votes actually recorded.

During the next few weeks a presentation is being organised for the Peter Woods Memorial Trophies, awarded for performances at darts, dominoes and bowls. I should be able to give you

more information on this matter in next week's issue.

The holiday weekend entertainment in our club will be as follows:-

Sat. 18th Apr. 1981 John Paul Junior
Sun. 19th Apr. 1981 Paul Fraser
Easter Mon. 20th Apr. Easter Bonnet Parade.

Call in for a pint after the game.

Stuart Cooper, Chairman.



AS THE season draws towards an exciting conclusion in the Fourth Division, it is quite clear just who is the biggest draw in the League . . . Scunthorpe United. Yes, the mighty "Ironsiders" have finished level on no less than nineteen occasions this term, and there is still time for them to add to their total. While Scunthorpe United have kept the punters happy, along with seventeen-game draw specialists Bradford City, they have also managed to keep clear of the re-election zone.

At the time of writing, one can perm any four from six teams who are likely to have to apply for re-election to the League although Halifax Town and Hereford United already look doomed. Halifax Town have to complete their battle for survival without key-men Tommy O'Neill and Paul Hendrie, who are out for the rest of the campaign. Meanwhile, fellow-strugglers Stockport County, one of the few teams to defeat promoted Southend United, witnessed Les Bradd's 500th Football League appearance, during which time he has netted an excellent 154 goals.

Congratulations are now due to Lincoln City, who have regained Third Division status after a couple of seasons in the lower ranks. All that seems to remain now is for Doncaster Rovers, Wimbledon, Aldershot, Peterborough United and Mansfield Town to fight it out for the last two promotions spots available.

Incidentally, when Southend United gained promotion several weeks back, it meant that their manager Dave Smith had won promotion three times in six seasons, with Mansfield Town and also at Roots Hall. Southend United, who have not been beaten at home since

February, 1980, are expected to distribute around £40,000 in bonus payments to their players.

The latest Fourth Division player to get his marching orders was Northampton Town's skipper and leading goalscorer, Steve Phillips, who was sent off last Saturday against Wimbledon. He automatically missed "The Cobblers" mid-week game with Hereford United.

The Fourth Division's top scorers are currently Robbie Cooke (Peterborough United) and Alan Cork (Wimbledon), each with 26 goals.

FOURTH DIVISION LEAGUE TABLE AS AT 16th APRIL, 1981.

	HOME					AWAY					Pts
	P	W	D	L	F A	P	W	D	L	F A	
Southend Utd.	42	18	3	0	44 4	9	3	9	27	24 60	
Lincoln City	41	13	7	1	42 11	9	7	4	20	11 58	
Doncaster Rovers	42	13	4	4	32 19	7	6	8	21	27 50	
Wimbledon	41	13	4	3	35 12	7	5	9	21	28 49	
Aldershot	42	12	8	1	26 8	6	4	11	15	29 48	
Peterborough Utd.	42	10	7	4	34 19	6	8	7	28	30 47	
Mansfield Town	42	12	4	5	33 14	7	4	10	21	25 46	
Bournemouth	42	9	8	4	30 19	7	5	9	15	23 45	
Darlington	41	11	5	4	37 20	6	5	10	22	33 44	
Hartlepool Utd.	42	12	3	6	37 22	6	5	10	21	36 44	
Wigan Athletic	43	11	4	6	28 15	5	6	11	18	35 42	
Torquay United	42	13	2	6	38 22	5	3	13	17	35 41	
North'pton Town	41	10	6	5	39 24	5	5	10	19	39 41	
Bury	42	9	7	4	31 18	6	3	13	28	39 40	
Rochdale	41	10	6	5	30 22	3	8	9	25	38 40	
Bradford City	42	8	9	4	28 23	4	7	10	20	34 40	
Crewe Alexandra	43	10	6	6	28 20	3	7	11	18	37 39	
Scunthorpe Utd.	42	7	11	3	34 27	2	8	11	17	31 37	
Port Vale	41	10	6	5	39 22	2	5	13	16	45 35	
Tranmere Rovers	41	11	4	5	37 20	1	5	15	18	45 33	
Stockport County	41	8	5	8	26 24	5	2	13	13	28 33	
York City	42	10	2	9	30 18	2	6	13	13	39 32	
Halifax Town	42	7	3	11	25 32	2	8	11	15	36 29	
Hereford Utd.	40	7	6	7	26 19	1	5	14	6	40 27	



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SCENE & HEARD

REGULAR followers of the club will have noted that mention has been made in the local press of our intention to introduce a "Take Five" ground ticket scheme for season 1981/1982, and, in addition, to form a steering committee to investigate the setting up of a "Junior Blues" organisation. Perhaps it would be beneficial to enlarge on these matters.

Several schemes have been introduced by football clubs during the past season, not only to encourage a family attitude amongst spectators, but also to produce the additional revenue which is required to keep clubs viable in these difficult times. The "Take Five" scheme is designed to assist with both of the features mentioned in the previous sentence, but, in particular, we hope to gain immediate benefit by injecting much needed cash, while rewarding enthusiasts for their generosity in paying in advance. For £5.00 (£2.50 for children and senior citizens), supporters can purchase a book of five tickets, enabling the purchaser to choose the five League games which he or she might wish to attend at an obvious preferential rate. More than one booklet can be purchased, if so required. For parents who have complained in the past about being separated from their children, when entering the ground, there is an obvious additional advantage. It must be emphasised, however, that tickets purchased cannot be used for Cup games, and will only be on sale for a limited period — 25th April, 1981 to 30th June, 1981. This new venture will be handled directly by the Commercial Department from their offices within the

ground. Buy your tickets early and save money by taking an early decision.

The "Junior Blues" scheme has been on ice for some time, and we do not wish to prejudice discussions to take place between interested parties by laying down too many early guidelines. The early response from adult members of the public has been encouraging, but it will need a very positive commitment from adults and children alike, if the scheme is to be developed to its fullest extent. By harnessing the young support through social and football activities, we hope to educate the adult spectators of tomorrow along the right lines, and give families a feeling of identification with Wigan Athletic. This can only be for the long term benefit of football in the Wigan and district area.

Any adult wishing to help formulate short-term planning of the "Junior Blues" scheme is asked to contact the Commercial Manager, either by telephone Wigan 43067 during office hours, by writing in, or, if more convenient, calling at the Commercial Department offices which, for the time being, will be the base of operations. It is planned to hold a meeting early in May, to allow for a free exchange of ideas and opinions, before settling down to form a steering committee to launch the introduction of the scheme in time for the new season in August, 1981.

By your support of the proposed new ventures, you will not only be giving an immediate boost to the club, but will also be taking positive steps to ensure the future well-being of Wigan Athletic.

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LATICS AWAY

SATURDAY,
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KICK-OFF 3.00 p.m.

Football League Division Four

**SCUNTHORPE
UNITED**

- V -

WIGAN ATHLETIC

Use M62 Motorway Eastbound until its junction with the M18. Join the M18 (signposted to Scunthorpe) and eventually join M180. Take the first road signposted to Scunthorpe off the M180 and proceed to roundabout, near to which Berkley Hotel is sited. Go straight up the hill towards Town Centre, The Old Show Ground is situated in Doncaster Road to your left.

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The Chairman's Column

I WOULD like to begin my notes, this week, by welcoming my old friends from Stockport County, and, in particular, Alan Kirk and his fellow directors. I enjoyed five very happy years at Edgeley Park, and I know that we can look forward to an enjoyable get-together after what will, no doubt, be a very hard game. Jimmy McGuigan knows the game through and through, and he will have organised his team for today's encounter, using his ability and knowledge to good effect.

Much of the recent discussion about the game we love has centred on the expected cuts in playing staff that are likely to take place at the end of the current season. There is a general feeling, throughout football, that many, many players will be unable to gain employment in a full-time capacity next season. It is anticipated that a record number of players will be released by Football League clubs this May. Next year may well see most clubs operating with a backbone of full-time players, aided by five or six part-time players and young professionals. In some ways, a reduction in the size of playing staffs will be a retrograde step, but clubs, faced as they are with worsening financial problems, will need to take drastic action, if they are to survive. I believe that it is a far from difficult task to get out of the Fourth Division, if one can organise one's team and maintain a good level of fitness among the players. Even this season, after some disastrous home results, we are going to finish only a little way short of a promotion place. It is certainly a case of what might have been.

I have written previously of my high hopes for young Mike Quinn's future, and I know that Larry Lloyd has already taken him to one side to give him good advice. If he is to progress, Mick has got to bite his lip a little, and his aggressive approach to the game, valuable though it is, must be controlled. It was pleasing, by the way, to see our two youngsters, Mark Wignall and David Glenn, doing so well at Bradford. If they are prepared to work hard and learn, they are definite prospects for the future.

Next Saturday sees the end of our home fixtures for the current season, and I hope we can have a good turn-out of spectators to bring down the curtain on a season which, however disappointing, has not left us without hope for the future.

Thank you for your support,

Yours sincerely,

Freddie Pye,

Chairman.

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TEAMS

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& White Stripes)

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Dave Fretwell

Steve McAdam

Alex Cribley

Colin Methven

Larry Lloyd

Mark Wignall

Jeff Wright

Tony Quinn

Peter Houghton

Frank Corrigan

David Glenn

**Stockport
County**
(Green/Yellow)

1 David Lawson

2 John Rutter

3 Steve Sherlock

4 Martin Fowler

5 Andy Thorpe

6 Tommy Sword

7 Oshor Williams

8 Dave Sunley

9 Les Bradd

10 Terry Park

11 Chris Galvin

12 Nigel Smith

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Austria match.

A married man with two
sons, he is a Director of a
tool-making concern, and
his hobbies are Tennis,
Swimming and Walking.
Serves on a committee to
raise money for the welfare
of Senior Citizens.

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Mr. K. G. Fawcett

(Kendal)

Yellow Flag

Mr. S. W. Mason

(Nelson)

HERE NEXT

Saturday, 25th April, 1981.
Kick-off 3.00 p.m.

**WIGAN ATHLETIC -v-
WIMBLEDON**

Football League Division Four.